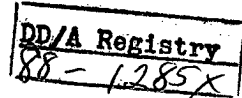




CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



William M. Baker
Director, Public Affairs
(703) 482-7676

27 May 1988

Mrs. Lilla Richards
Supervisor, Dranesville District
McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mrs. Richards:

In reply to your letter of 5 May in which you enclosed three letters from CIA neighbors who expressed concern about the siting of our jogging track and the placement of a fence on the Agency property line along Savile Lane, we provide the following information:

The original design of the jogging path brought the path at its closest point to within 30 feet from the Tierney's property. We recently asked our contractors to redesign the path to move it as far from the property line as possible. Under the new design the track will come no closer than 51 feet from the Tierney's property. Further movement is not feasible because of the terrain and the excessive costs which would be incurred to move it any farther away. We will retain all the large trees in the area and plant evergreens to further screen the people and path. Once completed, it will blend with the environment and will not be intrusive to our neighbors. I should point out that the path will be only 6 feet wide with a 2 foot grass shoulder on either side. The track will not be lighted and will be used primarily during the work week, times when neighbors are less likely to be home. The path is intended only for jogging and walking; no vehicles will utilize the path.

As to the fence along Savile Lane, we have reached an agreement which is acceptable to most residents. We will replace the existing fence along the property line with a "farm fence." This decision has been communicated to the residents and, for the most part, all are satisfied. I'm informed Mr. Benjamin Blood and Mr. James Eric Horne are not pleased with the decision. The Government's property line is indeed very close to the back of

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Mrs. Lilla Richards

their respective homes. There is currently no existing fence separating Government property from that of Mr. Blood's and Mr. Horne's. For reasons that are not known, GSA never fenced off these areas. Mr. Blood has for years cut the grass on the Government property, and Mr. Horne, whose home is currently under construction, recently had the trees and bushes on the Government property bulldozed. Given this background, I think you can understand why Messers Blood and Horne are concerned that we will erect the fence following the property line.

We would like to accommodate them, but we are constrained by some intractable problems. If we move the fence back from the line, we are in effect providing them with Government land for their personal use. We do not have legal authority to permit such use of Government land. We are also concerned that should we move the fence back from the line subsequent owners could construe that they have entitlement to the property.

We also need to clearly delineate Government property from private property for reasons of security. During the most recent demonstrations, there was confusion as to the exact location of Government property. Such delineation at the time was critical for the various police jurisdictions who were anticipating the need to make arrests for trespassing. Absent clear property delineation, there was concern that demonstrators could be improperly arrested. To prevent this sort of problem in the future, we have had the land surveyed, and believe we must erect the "farm fence" agreed to by other neighbors to precisely define the property lines.

We have and will continue to act in a manner which is attentive to our neighbors and their concerns. However, at this point, we believe that we have done all that we can to accommodate their group and individual concerns on the issues of the jogging path and fence. We appreciate your continued support and understanding. To facilitate informing the residents, we are also providing the President of the Downcrest Citizens Association with a copy of this letter. We will also talk with Mr. Blood and Mr. Horne directly to discuss the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

William M. Baker

cc: John T. Kenney, President
Downcrest Citizens Association